

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SHUM, UN, ECOSOC, SOCI, SGEN

SUBJECT:62ND ECOSOC--PREPARATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ITEMS

REF: (A) STATE 76062, (B) USUN 1041

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN MISSION SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL B WITH RESPECT TO REFTEL A. WE BELIEVE THAT LOAD OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORK, BOTH ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL, WILL JUSTIFY A REGULAR SECOND SESSION OF THE HRC AND THAT THIS IS CLEAR INTENT OF PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL. WE THEREFORE AGREE THAT ALTERNATIVE IDEA OF A TRIAL APPROACH THIS YEAR AS SUGGESTED BY USUN MAY BE DISCUSSED SO LONG AS IT IS PRESENTED AS POSSIBLE TACTICAL MOVE WHICH MAY PROVE TO BE ATTRACTIVE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE. IN PRESENTING THIS IDEA, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR OBJECTIVE OF MORE FREQUENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HRC MEETINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

2. DEPT CONCURS THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY AS APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS OCCUR BUT NOT PRESSED AND THAT QUESTION OF MOVEMENT OF HRD WILL ARISE MORE LOGICALLY AT POINT AT WHICH SECOND HRC MEETING IN NEW YORK BECOMES REGULAR OCCURRENCE.

3. OUR CONCEPT OF DEFENDING 1503 PROCEDURES IS NOT BASED ON BELIEF THAT WE CAN HOPE TO STRENGTHEN THESE PROCEDURES AT ECOSOC BUT ON BELIEF THAT DAMAGING PROPOSALS CAN BEST BE STYMIED IF MET PROMPTLY BY CAREFULLY PREPARED COUNTER-PROPOSALS AGREED IN ADVANCE BY WEO'S. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS TYPE OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD LEST WE INADVERTENTLY STIMULATE AN ATTACK ON 1503 BY STATES WHICH FEAR WE PLAN AN INITIATIVE.

4. DEPT WILL BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN WEO VIEWS OF DECADE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN DECISIONS OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON 1978 CONFERENCE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE REPORT BY MISSION AS TO WHETHER 1977 ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN NIGERIA IS ACTIVELY GOING TO TAKE PLACE AND WHAT PARTICIPATION, AGENDA, ETC. ARE ENVISAGED. IF SERIOUS PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY FOR AUGUST CONFERENCE, WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED TO HEAR ABOUT THEM FROM NIGERIA OR APARTHEID COMMITTEE BY THIS TIME. IF THEY ARE NOT, POSSIBILITY REMAINS OPEN, IN OUR VIEW, TO WORK WITH AFRICANS TOWARD A 1978 CONFERENCE IN WHICH WE COULD PARTICIPATE.
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Message Attributes

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